



Representative

Hans Dunshee

2004 Session Report

44th District

Dear neighbors,

How can we make Washington state a better place to live, work and raise a family? How can we give your children a better life?

We all worry about those questions, to wonder what will happen — not just next week and next year, but ten years from now. Will my kid get into a good college? Will I be able to retire? How will I pay for health care or the prescription medicines I need?

Rep. John Lovick and I sent a survey to citizens in the 44th District, and there was a great diversity of opinions. Everybody was willing to talk, and that's what makes America strong. All those who responded did have one thing in common: you saw problems with the status quo and wanted solutions — better schools, better jobs, better health care.

This newsletter is about a strong vision for our future.

I believe real progress comes from strong leadership and refusing to let good enough be good enough. We need to win a race to the top.

Forget about making things better. We have to push for being the best. Businesses in our state are fighting for survival against companies around the globe. The prize for second place is instead of making \$100,000 you get laid off.

Winning a race to the top means raising expectations and fighting hard for:

- the **best schools**
- the **best jobs**
- the **best health care**, and
- the **best environment**.

Washington state is already home to companies that lead the world — Microsoft, Amazon, Starbucks and Boeing, which will build the 7E7 right here in Everett. We can't rest on our lead. The best jobs of tomorrow will go to workers in Iowa or India unless we focus on winning the brainpower war. That means our kids must have the best science and math education in the world.

I believe in the hard work and creativity of people in Washington state. If we put aside party labels and work together, we can pass strong reforms and give our kids a great future.

Sincerely,

REP. HANS DUNSHEE
44th District

The best schools

Our state can't win a race to the bottom. We can't pay workers pennies on the hour or attract businesses by dropping protections for the environment and our health, not when Third World countries are so desperate for money they're getting paid to take toxic waste.

Winning a race to the top means giving our kids the best education in the world.

We do OK now. Our kids have the highest SAT scores in the nation. That and \$3.50 will buy a mocha. Good enough, though, isn't good enough. We expect our schools and colleges to produce graduates with the right high-tech skills for the highest-paying jobs.



No more teacher strikes

In the last five years, our district had four teacher strikes. The Marysville strike last year was the longest in our state's history. I'm introducing a reform to prevent strikes by giving teachers and school districts the same tool – binding arbitration – that keeps police officers and firefighters on the job. You probably know a firefighter or police officer. Ask them if it works.

Simple majority for schools

It's hypocritical for politicians to say 55 percent is a landslide election for them but 59 percent is failure for schools.

Setting the bar at 60 percent for school levies only hurts us all by making it tougher to fix old and overcrowded schools. I support legislation to allow school levies to pass with a simple majority, 50 percent, just like all other elections.

The best and brightest teachers

Our kids won't get the best education in the world without having the best and brightest teachers standing in front of every classroom.

To do that, I support the reforms to recruit – and keep – the best teachers for our students and to give teachers better pay.

Last year, I voted for a budget that would keep the faith with two initiatives voters approved (I-728 and I-732) to improve teacher pay, fix overcrowded classrooms and help our local schools. Unfortunately, the Republican Senate wouldn't agree with the House on this issue.

I'll keep fighting for better pay for teachers. Our kids deserve the best.

No more trailers pretending to be schools

Real classrooms don't echo when you walk on the floor. Real classrooms aren't drafty, cold and leaky.

I don't know any parent who wants their kid spending their school day in a trailer instead of a real classroom. I'm fighting hard so no child in this state spends the day cooped up in a "portable classroom" instead of a real school.

The Brick Award

Until the state test (the Washington Assessment of Student Learning) starts to count for high school graduation, there's no incentive for elementary and high school students to do well on the test.

To encourage better scores, the top ten schools with the biggest improvements in test scores will get \$100,000 in capital budget money, and the students will decide how to spend it. A better library? A new computer lab? It's up to them.

A shot at the American Dream

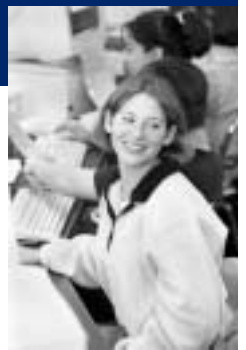
In 2008, the largest class of high school seniors in our history will start knocking on college doors. Those doors will stay shut unless we start making room for 30,000 more seats in our college lecture halls and labs.

It's wrong to tell an entire generation of students that they can't earn a college degree, the surest ticket to the American Dream.

The best jobs

More computer, math and science grads

Microsoft is hiring thousands of new workers but only a tiny fraction are from Washington state because our colleges just don't produce enough people with the right computer, math and science degrees. It's crazy to sit back while people from California or Texas get those jobs making \$100,000 while our kids get stuck brewing lattes for minimum wage.



Help for small businesses

Small businesses create the most jobs, but big businesses are the ones that get all the tax breaks and attention.

I've been a small business owner, so I know what it's like. To create more jobs, I support reforms to (1) help small busi-



nesses offer health coverage and (2) make it easier for people to start their own small business.

Washington state is a great place to do business. Some politicians shout that it's terrible here, that we crush businesses — but that's a mistake. Why talk down our economy and try to scare jobs away?

To create jobs, we need to talk up our state, not badmouth it. Independent experts say this is a great place to do business. The Seattle area was named the No. 1 place in the country for business, and our state is No. 8 in the nation for small businesses.

The best health care

Our families deserve the best health care. That's not happening now.

It's not right that seniors have to pick between paying the electric bill and buying the prescription medicines that keep them healthy and alive.

It's not right that folks with full-time jobs can't afford health coverage for their families — not when their tax dollars are paying for health care for convicted rapists and child molesters in state prisons.

If every accused criminal has the right to a lawyer, why do our kids have to struggle to see a doctor?

The United States is the only industrial nation that doesn't give health coverage to all citizens, and Washington state is one of the wealthiest states. We can do better.

I support strong reforms to make health care more affordable for all families and businesses in Washington state.

Cheaper medicines from Canada

Citizens and taxpayers can save millions by buying prescription medicines from Canada.

Why should you pay double or triple for the same exact prescription drug? This is a case where we can pay less and get more.



Cut the red tape

Most doctors now pay a full-time staffer whose only job is wrestling with all the paperwork from HMO's, Medicare and Medicaid.

Experts say 30 cents of every dollar you pay for health care gets wasted on red tape and administration instead of health care for patients. If you have health coverage from an HMO, you've probably had a taste of this paperwork.

We can do better. The federal government only spends 2 cents running Medicare and puts 98 cents on the dollar for health care.

It's time to take a machete to all this red tape.

Patient safety

Right now, rules prevent hospitals from sharing information about medical errors that lead to patient injuries or death. To save lives, those rules need to change.

We also must help doctors with the cost of malpractice insurance by going after the 5 percent of doctors who cause nine out of ten malpractice lawsuits. There's no reason why your good family doctor should be paying for the mistakes of a handful of doctors who don't belong in the profession.

Keeping in touch

Snohomish County office

2812 Lombard Ave, Rm 101
Everett, WA 98201

425-257-1767

Hotline

800-562-6000

E-mail

dunshee_ha@leg.wa.gov

Websites

<http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/dunshee/>
www.leg.wa.gov/house/dunshee

Town hall meetings

Saturday, Feb. 21

Mill Creek 9 - 11AM

Mill Creek City Council Chambers
15728 Mill Creek Blvd

Lake Stevens Noon - 2PM

School Dist. Administration Building
12309 22nd St NE



Please
place
stamp
here



Representative

Hans Dunshee

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

What do you think?

Thanks to all the citizens who responded to the survey from Rep. John Lovick and I – we read all responses and appreciate your ideas, comments and questions.

Many of you asked to have space for two responses from the same family, so I’m putting space for two citizens with this short survey.

What’s the role of government?

(choose one)

Citizen 1	Citizen 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To solve problems that the private sector doesn’t – schools, roads, police, firefighters.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government is inherently wasteful and inefficient; privatize all services.

Where is the state heading?

Citizen 1	Citizen 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wrong direction

Am I heading in the right direction on issues and policies important to you and the district?

Citizen 1	Citizen 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wrong direction

What should we do to improve our schools and colleges?

Citizen 1	Citizen 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller class sizes, better pay for teachers and more room at our colleges and universities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private school vouchers and charter schools

Should we challenge the Bush Administration’s ban against saving money by re-importing prescription medicines from Canada?

Citizen 1	Citizen 2	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

If you want more information and updates about issues this session, please tell me and I’ll keep you informed.

Citizen 1	Citizen 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Preventing teacher strikes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improving colleges and universities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Creating jobs
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reforming health care

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____